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SPONGE GOLD IN DENTISTRY.

BY W. H. DWINELLE, M.D., D.D.S.

DR. A. J. WATTS, chemist, of Utica, N. Y., has been pursuing a series of chemical experiments with reference to obtaining an article of sponge gold which should supply the wants of the dental profession, and has placed in our hands for trial three different articles of sponge or minutely-divided gold.

The first is of a highly crystalline character. The second is in lamina, made up of exceedingly fine granules. The third is in a spongy arborescent form.

The first, or crystalline gold, with proper care and handling, forms a solid plug; but unless great care is used, is subject to considerable waste.

The second, or laminated gold, is a much better article from its tougher character and extreme adhesiveness, but from the thinness of its plates, the operation of filling is rendered extremely slow.

The third, or sponge gold proper, is in the form of a cake, from one eighth to one fourth of an inch in thickness, of a compact, spongy, arborescent character, possessing in the most eminent degree all of the desirable qualities of the above—toughness, compactness, pliability, together with plasticity, and the highest degree of adhesiveness.

The method of producing the first, or crystalline gold, is familiar to the readers of the dental Journals. The mode of preparing the second and third is not yet published, but they are evidently prepared in an entirely different manner from the first.

With this last article we have had considerable experience, and with uniform satisfaction, especially in large stoppings.

In using the sponge gold, we adopt the following method:—With a sharp blade we cut off from the cake of gold a sufficient quantity for our present purpose; this we anneal thoroughly with an alcohol lamp, and then, spreading it upon a clean paper before us, we cut it up into fragments and pellets best adapted to the cavity into which it is to be introduced.

Being previously provided with various instruments, whose extremities are subdivided into two or more points, we, by pressure upon the sponge, readily induce it to adhere to them, when we carefully carry it to its destination in the cavity of the tooth, which has been previously dried with

paper. As the operation is repeated, accompanied with thorough packing and pressure, it will be found that the particles of gold readily weld together into a solid mass; so that when the stopping is completed, it in all respects resembles melted gold, and may be subjected to the same treatment with impunity. For the purpose of determining its various qualities as a stopping for the teeth, we subjected it to the following tests:—

To test its *malleability*, we took a large plug of gold formed in the manner just described, laid it upon an anvil, and with a hammer beat it to flatness; annealing it, we passed it through a rolling mill, when it was formed into plate, as perfect in all its characteristics as any plate made of pure gold.

To test its *ductility*, we took a similar plug, formed as before, and drew it out into wire as fine as No. 80 Stubbs's plate.

To test its corking or stopping quality, and the impermeability of its antagonizing *joints* to fluids, we took a piece of thick glass tube, about a foot long, into one end of which, to the depth of more than half an inch, we introduced a stopping of sponge gold. Inverting the tube, we poured into it a solution of red saunders; we then closely fitted a piston and rod immediately above the fluid, and upon this applied a weight. At the expiration of twenty-four hours, the fluid had not made the slightest progress downward.

To test its ability to being built upon into irregular and independent shapes, we have repeatedly re-produced from one half to three fourths of the entire crowns of the molar teeth, *in gold*. As a further test, we took a block of ivory, *chucked* it upon our lathe, and with small tools formed a matrix to correspond to the size of a large finger ring. Into this we introduced, by packing and condensing, as in stopping teeth, more than five dwts of sponge gold; placing it back upon our lathe, we turned out the ivory within and without the golden circle, until it became entirely separated; this readily endured all of the necessary process of filing, stoning and burnishing into a beautiful massive gold ring, which has been worn constantly for several months, and will, in all respects, stand trial with any pure gold ring made in the ordinary way. It has this advantage, however, over all rings made heretofore, *it is a ring*, an uninterrupted ring, and "has no end," a continuous circle with no alloy between!

As a test of density, well-formed plugs do not shrink under the blow-pipe; their inner surfaces are bright and solid, while their polished disks take the graver like plate.

Under the microscope it presents a beautiful and gorgeous appearance, like looking into a golden sylvan grove, each mossy or arborescent branch being in the form of a six-sided crystal.

Although we consider Dr. Watts's sponge gold indispensable to our practice, yet we do not think it will ever entirely supersede the use of gold foil. It can often be used to great advantage in combination with gold foil. In large stoppings it possesses great advantages over foil, from the facility with which it can be introduced, and consequent freedom from the fatigue which ever accompanies long operations.

We think no one in our profession who has had experience in its use would be willing to do without it.

Dr. Watts is deserving of great praise for his persevering course of experiments, which have resulted so favorably to our art. May he reap the abundant reward he deserves.—*American Journal of Dental Science.*

ON THE VENOM OF SERPENTS.

BY J. GILMAN, A.M., M.D., LL.D.

THERE is much in the history and habits of the reptile tribes, however repulsive they may be in appearance, that is very interesting. During a sojourn of two or three months in the interior of Arkansas, which appears to me to be the paradise of reptiles, I paid some attention to that branch of natural history called ophiology. I found four distinct varieties of rattlesnakes (*crotalus*), of which the *Crotalus Horridus* and *Crotalus Kirtlandii* are by far the most numerous. The former is the largest serpent in North America. The family of moccasin snakes (*Colluber*) is also quite numerous, there being not less than ten varieties, most of which are quite as venomous as the rattlesnake. By dissecting great numbers of different species I learned that the anatomical structure of the poisoning apparatus is similar in all the different varieties of venomous serpents. It consists of a strong frame-work of bone, with its appropriate muscles in the upper part of the head, resembling and being, in fact, a pair of jaws, but externally to the jaws proper, and much stronger. To these is attached by a ginglymoid articulation, one or more movable fangs on each side; just at the verge of the mouth, capable of being erected at pleasure. These fangs are very hard, sharp, and crooked, like the claws of a cat, and hooked backward, with a hollow from the base to near the point. I have occasionally seen a thin slit of bone divide this hollow—making two. At their base is found a small sac, containing two or three drops of venom which resembles thin honey. The sac is so connected with the cavity of the fang during its erection, that a slight upward pressure forces the venom into the fang at its base, and it makes its exit at a small slit or opening near the point, with considerable force; thus it is carried to the bottom of any wound made by the fang. Unless the fangs are erected for battle, they lie concealed in the upper part of the mouth, sunk between the external and internal jaw bones, somewhat like a pen-knife blade shut up in its handle, where they are covered by a fold of membrane, which encloses them like a sheath; this is the *vagina dentis*. There can be no doubt that these fangs are frequently broken off or shed, as the head grows broader, to make room for new ones nearer the verge of the mouth; for, within the *vagina dentis* of a very large *crotalus horridus*, I found no less than five fangs on each side—in all stages of formation—the smallest in a half pulpy or cartilaginous state, the next something harder, the third still more perfect, and, so on to the main, well-set, perfect fang. Each of these teeth had a well-defined cavity like the main one. Three fangs on each side were frequently found in copper heads, vipers and others.

The process of robbing serpents of their venom is easily accomplished by the aid of chloroform, a few drops of which stupefies them. If, while they are under its influence, they are carefully seized by the neck, and the vagina dentis held out of the way by an assistant, with a pair of forceps, and the fang be erected and gently pressed upward, the venom will be seen issuing from the fang, and dropping from its point. It may then be absorbed by a bit of sponge, or caught in a vial, or on the point of a lancet. After robbing several serpents in this manner, they were found after two days to be as highly charged as ever with venom of equal intensity with that first taken.

During the process of robbing several species of serpents, I inoculated several small but vigorous and perfectly healthy vegetables, with the point of a lancet well charged with venom. The next day they were withered and dead, looking as though they had been scathed with lightning. In attempting to preserve a few drops of venom, for future experiments, in a small vial with two or three parts of alcohol, it was found in a short time to have lost its venomous properties. But after mixing the venom with aqua ammonia, or spirits turpentine, or oil of peppermint, or of cinnamon, or of cloves, or with nitric or sulphuric acid, it still seemed to act with undiminished energy. It is best preserved, however, for future use by trituration with refined sugar or sugar of milk.

A very fine large cotton-mouth snake, being captured by putting a shoe-string around him, became excessively ferocious, striking at even the crack of a small riding whip. Finding himself a prisoner, without hope of escape, he turned his deadly weapons on his own body, striking repeatedly his well-charged fangs deeply into his flesh. Notwithstanding this, he was put in a small basket, and carried forward. In one hour after, he was found dead, and no amount of irritation could excite the least indication of life. Four hours after, while removing the skin for preservation, the blood oozed slowly from the vessels in a dissolved state. No violence was done to his snakeship, except what he did to himself.

Another moccasin, shot by a pistol about two inches back of the head, and skinned immediately, gave decided evidence of vitality four hours after being flayed, by writhing the body whenever it was irritated by a scalpel.

A large rattlesnake beheaded instantly, with a hoe, would, an hour and a half after, strike at anything that pinched its tail. Of several persons who were testing their firmness of nerve, by trying to hold the hand steady while the serpent struck at it, not one could be found whose hand would not recoil in spite of his resolution; and one man, a great bully, by-the-by, was struck on the naked throat with considerable violence by the headless trunk of the serpent, and staggered back, fainted and fell, from terror. Mr. Stewart, of Miss., tells me he once witnessed a similar scene. An old hunter shot a rattlesnake's head off, and after re-loading his gun and standing some time, he stooped to pull off the rattles, and the bloody but headless trunk of the snake struck him in the temple, and he fainted and fell down with terror.

Seven venomous serpents belonging to five different species were made to fraternize and dwell amicably in one den. A beautiful pair of long

bodied speckled snakes, known as king-snakes, found to be fangless, and consequently without venom, were duly installed as members of the family. Some uneasiness was perceivable among the older members, but no attempt was made to destroy the intruders, though they might have been killed instantaneously. The next morning four of the venomous serpents were found to have been destroyed by the king-snakes, and one was still within their coil, and the two remaining ones would make no effort at self-defence. A large rattlesnake seemed stupid and indifferent to his fate. He could not be made to threaten or give warning even with his rattles. The smallest king-snake was afterwards inoculated with the poison of one of the serpents he had destroyed, and died immediately after—thus evincing that they must have exercised some power besides physical force to overcome their fellow creatures.

In short, the results of a great number of experiments performed with the venom of a great variety of serpents, seem to lead to the following conclusions :—

1st. That the venom of all serpents acts as a poison in a similar manner.

2d. That the venom of some varieties is far more active than that of others.

3d. That a variety of the colluber, known as the cotton-mouth, is the most venomous serpent in Arkansas.

4th. That the venom of serpents destroys all forms of organized life, vegetable as well as animal.

5th. That alcohol, if brought in contact with the venom, is, to a certain extent, an antidote.

6th. That serpents do possess the power of fascinating small animals, and that this power is identical with mesmerism.

7th. That the blood of small animals, destroyed by the venom of serpents, bears a close resemblance to that of animals destroyed by lightning or hydrocyanic acid ; it loses its power of coagulation and cannot be long kept from putrefaction.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

A SINGULAR CASE—HYDROPHOBIC SYMPTOMS.

BY J. E. THOMPSON, M.D., OF MISSOURI.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MARCH 30, 1854, I was called professionally to see John Connel, ætas 35, an Irish laborer, of good habits and constitution, rather corpulent, and of great muscular strength. Found the patient under much nervous excitement, naked, and walking his room to and fro. Notwithstanding all the windows were raised, and the doors thrown open, he would every few minutes exclaim, "Great God! I am smothering! I am smothering!" His eyes were red as though under the influence of intoxication; countenance greatly dejected; pulse 128, small and thready; respiration difficult; bowels distended; skin hot and dry, with a thin, light-colored coating upon the tongue. No local injury could be found. I immediately threw several pailfuls of ice-water upon his body, which, after a

moment, allayed his excitement, upon which he exclaimed, "O that I could lie in a river of ice-water!" He complained of great thirst, entreating his friends "for God's sake to give him just one drop of cold water to cool his parched tongue"! which they refused. I allowed him a cup; but no sooner had he raised it to his lips, than a violent spasm seized him in the muscles of the throat. I gave of *sp. æth. sulph. comp.*, 3 jss., to be repeated at every recurrence of the paroxysm. The fit lasted some five minutes. He sprang from the bed, which we had placed him upon while in the fit, as though frightened, saying he was smothering; upon no consideration could he be induced to remain. I ordered the following:—*R. Sulph. morph.*, gr. j.; *Pulv. ipecac. et opii*, grs. x. *Misce. Fiat pulvis*, in chartulas sex dividendus. One to be taken in syrup every third hour. Cold applications to be applied to the head and neck every few hours.

31st.—Has not slept; walked to and fro all night; spasms recurred three times, when attempting to drink water; thirst intense; complete aversion to food of all kinds; has not ate anything since the 29th; countenance anxious; respiration difficult; pulse 124, small; considerable irritability of the nervous system; bowels distended; pain in the back and head. Gave of *R. Hyd. chlo. mit.*, grs. viij.; *pulv. rhei*, grs. v.; *pulv. aloes*, grs. ij. *Misce. Quieting pulv.* discontinued, and *pil. hyoscy. no. ij.* given every hour till sleep is produced. Cold lotion continued.

April 1st.—Has not slept. Has had four alvine discharges; has neither ate nor drank anything; pulse 115. Other symptoms pretty much as yesterday. *Pil. hyoscy.* continued.

2d.—Has had three alvine discharges; pulse 100; can lie in bed without much inconvenience, but cannot sleep; has taken no food for three days; thirst intense, but spasms recur when any attempts are made to take water; countenance dejected. Treatment continued.

3d.—Has slept about ten minutes, the first minute's sleep since March 29th; paroxysms recurred twice, but slight, when attempting to drink; does not experience much difficulty in breathing. Drank a little beef-tea. Has had two alvine discharges; pulse 90, full; tongue covered in the centre with a thick, dark-yellow coating, red and sharp at the tip. Gave of the following, *R. Sulph. quin.*, gr. xv.; *ferri ferrocy.*, grs. xxx.; *pulv. acacia*, q. s. *Misce, et fiat massa in pilulas duodecim. dividenda.* Three to be taken every four hours. *Pil. hyoscy. no. j.* to be taken every hour.

4th.—Slept about two hours through the night; cannot drink water yet; took some beef-tea and rice; pulse 80; respiration natural: had two alvine discharges. Treatment continued.

5th.—Slept well all night; took a cup of water, but was afraid to drink much. Improving rapidly.

6th.—Can drink without any difficulty. Patient said he was well, and he was discharged cured.

Remarks.—Since the occurrence of this case, I have searched in journals and works on medical practice, and I cannot find a single case similar to the above. Some of my neighboring practitioners, to whom I

have related it, say it "is emphatically hydrophobia." Others say not. But I must confess myself in a quandary. Is it hydrophobia? I could find no marks of wounds or local injuries likely to cause it. The patient says he "never saw a mad dog, let alone being bitten by one." Does idiopathic hydrophobia ever happen in the human subject? Would we not be justified, according to the diagnosis, in calling it *typho-hydrophobic congestion*?

Osage Co., Mo., June 6th, 1854.

THE VENTILATION OF HOUSE-DRAINS.

BY FRANCIS MINOT, M.D., BOSTON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE occurrence of several cases of cholera in Boston, within the last few days, has called special attention to the sanitary condition of the city, and the most energetic and complete system of purifying the streets, cellars and drains will undoubtedly be put into operation by the city authorities. Should we be again visited by an epidemic, as in the year 1849, we have every reason to hope that, so far as public sanitary measures can avail, the disease will fall with comparative lightness upon us, and that Boston will maintain the high reputation she has always enjoyed for being a clean and healthy city.

There is an evil, however, which exists to some extent among us, and which may, under favorable circumstances, as will be amply shown, become a fruitful source of disease. We refer to the absence of ventilation in house-drains and water-closets. The house-drains of this city are either directly connected with the street sewers, or communicate with them by means of a cess-pool, which is intended to prevent the reflux of air towards the house, while it permits the flow of the liquid part of the sulliage in the opposite direction. When the communication with the sewer is direct, the house is liable to be flooded with gas of the most offensive and deleterious properties, from various causes, of which a frequent one with us is a strong wind blowing into the sewer, when its mouth is exposed at low tide. A well-constructed cess-pool is an efficient remedy against this calamity, especially in a city like Boston, where the inclination of the soil is favorable to drainage, and where the sewers are well built, and well cleansed by the vast quantities of waste water allowed to run through them.

Most of the better class of houses communicate directly with the main sewers by means of water-closets, which discharge their contents immediately into them, without the intervention of cess-pools, the only protection against the reflux of foul air into the house being the trap of the water-closet, which is an insufficient barrier against a strong pressure from without. This is evident from the fact that when the machine is not in action, a gurgling sound is occasionally heard in the soil-pan, the water suddenly sinks below its former level, and sometimes even wholly disappears, showing that the external pressure has been able to force the gas through the water. This evil, however, is only occasional, being

dependent upon a pressure from without which does not always exist. A much more serious one lies in the fact that the contents of the water-closet cannot go down the soil-pipe without displacing an equal bulk of air which must come *up*; and unless some means for its escape are provided, it must enter the house, diffusing an offensive odor, and capable, doubtless, of acting as an exciting cause of disease, under favorable circumstances.

A glance at the map appended to the admirable "Report on the Cholera in Boston in 1849," will show, that while the greater number of cases within the city proper occurred in ill-drained, crowded or low situations, as in Sea street, Broad street, Ann street, &c., there were a few others scattered about in almost every part of the town, including some localities usually considered as healthy, and certainly elevated and well drained; as, for instance, Mt. Vernon, May, South Russell and Temple streets. Unless we believe that in every such case the disease was excited by some peculiarity in the habits or condition of the patient, or was derived directly from contagion, there must have been in those situations some local exciting cause which favored the development of the germs of the malady.

The above remarks were suggested by the perusal of a highly interesting document, consisting of the report of a commission appointed to investigate the causes of an epidemic of fever and diarrhœa, which prevailed during the autumn and winter of 1853, in the town of Croydon, in England. No such epidemic having occurred before in that locality, the inhabitants were naturally thrown into consternation by the fact, that in a population of about 16,000 persons, there occurred about 1800 cases of fever, with a mortality of about 60, and very numerous cases of diarrhœa and dysentery, with a mortality of about 10; and that all this happened during and since the construction of a new system of sewerage intended to improve the sanitary condition of the place. The investigation showed that among several evident causes of the epidemic, the flooding of the houses with foul air (owing to a defective system of drainage) played an important part. The drain pipes were made of earthen-ware, and besides being of too small capacity for the quantity of fluid liable to be poured into them, were frequently broken by the weight of incumbent earth, by the passage of heavy carriages on the road over them, by the bending of portions of the drain in yielding ground, &c. In this way numerous stoppages occurred, which caused the foul air behind them to be driven out at the entrance of the pipe when water was poured in. The following examples, cited from the Report, give an idea of the extent and consequences of this evil.

1. One of the medical practitioners of Croydon related that in the middle of the night he awoke in great uneasiness, and perceived immediately that the cause was a most offensive smell in the room, like that of drains; it made him sick. His wife also awoke, and immediately complained of the intolerable smell; it soon caused her to vomit, and this disturbance proved the commencement of an attack of the prevailing illness, which confined her for six weeks. Two other persons in the house had fever. There were near the house two open gully-holes of

an old drain, from which, at irregular times, and suddenly, most offensive bursts of stench issued. The new drains of the house were totally obstructed for weeks. The effluvium may have been from the old drain, or it may have been from the new, in the way proved to have occurred in the next case here related. Other house drains were stopped in the same neighborhood; two of them in the houses of medical men, in whose families, also, fever broke out. Fever cases were numerous in the whole locality.

2. Mr. Grattan, solicitor, stated that the drains of his house, though allowing water to pass away readily, often sent back strong gusts, sometimes audible, of fetid air, when water was poured into a closet or sink. On one occasion the experiment was purposely made in three such places in succession, and the foul air issued from every one. His children, before the establishment of the new drains, had been remarkably healthy, but after the change they became sickly, being affected with indigestion and diarrhœa.

3. "In the school of the Society of Friends, of size to accommodate 150 children, there occurred upwards of 30 cases of fever and of bowel disturbance, and there happened two deaths, one of which was that of the superintendent, a healthy man of 40, and the other that of an assistant. The house was remarkably clean, and altogether well managed, as would be expected from such occupants. It is built on an elevated, healthy site. There had been some, but not much complaint of the smell from the closets, and no cause of the outbreak was clearly indicated. The intelligent Committee of Management, anxious to have all attainable security, determined to ventilate their system of drains. They did this by a pipe rising from the highest part of the drain to above the house-roof, through which pipe, effluvium formed below, instead of entering the closets, would be dissipated in the open air. One of the teachers lately ascended to the top of the pipe, and holding his face over the opening inhaled some of the escaping air; it was so offensive as to make him sick; he could not afterwards take dinner, and he remained much indisposed all the evening." "Such foul air escaping, even in small quantities, could not but influence unfavorably the health of inmates. Whatever its origin, the ventilating tube now put up prevents the diffusion of it in the house."

4. "The escape of foul gas from the syphon traps of closets and sinks has evidently been common in Croydon. Most of the medical men had believed it frequent, without, perhaps, thinking of the exact nature of the accident. Thus, Mr. Bottomley, in his written communication to the commissioners, used these words—'The escape of noxious gases from the small tubes into the houses, keeping up a foul, unhealthy state of the atmosphere in those houses, thereby much retarding the recovery of the sick, and keeping alive the danger of fresh outbreaks.' And Mr. Berney, in speaking to me on the subject, said he believed the occurrence to be common, that many persons had complained of such smells; and he spoke particularly of a house where a young gentleman was then (on 13th of April) seriously ill of the fever, in which house such complaints had been repeatedly made. He mentioned, also, the

case of a lady, who on asserting the fact of such escape, was told by some one that it could not be, and she desired the objector to try by pouring a bucket of water at once into the place, as she had done."

5. "Many of the medical men have pointedly observed that while common epidemics attack first and chiefly the lower classes of the inhabitants, who are badly lodged, clothed and fed—as the typhoid fevers occurring occasionally in Croydon in former years have always done—the present epidemic attacked chiefly persons of the middle and higher classes, or those living in superior houses. Dr. Sutherland and others remarked upon this, that *the water-closets of the superior houses were situated within the houses, while those of the inferior were generally outside and at some distance.*"

6. Mr. Page, one of the Commissioners, speaking of the absence of ventilation in the sewers, says:—"This important element of health and comfort, which has been generally neglected in dwellings, and almost totally neglected in sewers, which *must* soon be introduced into every place of sewerage present or to come, has been entirely overlooked at Croydon. Coupled with the terrible infliction of disease upon the inhabitants, it is melancholy to reflect at what little extra trouble and scarcely extra expense, an universal cause of complaint might have been avoided." He regrets that the following directions from the "Minutes of Information" of the General Board of Health had not been observed. "Whenever a water-closet, even with the best sort of syphon trap, is introduced into a house, it will be well to provide an escape into the outer air."

The foregoing extracts are sufficient to prove the evils which may result from the neglect of ventilation in the construction of sewers and water-closets. It is true that these evils do not exist to an alarming extent in Boston; the house-drains in the better class of houses are generally ventilated by the gutters which convey the rain-water from the roof into them; still, in many cases, this precaution is neglected, and it cannot be applied to the soil-pipes of water-closets, where the foul gas is liable to be forced into the house every time the machine is used. It is hoped that while public attention is awakened by the threatened invasion of a dangerous epidemic, this source of disease will not be overlooked. Although the public authorities can effect but little in this respect, the members of the profession through their intercourse with the community can do much by pointing out the source of danger, and urging the necessity for its removal.

The methods of obviating the evil which forms the subject of this communication are simple and generally inexpensive, and need be barely alluded to here. For house-drains, simply connecting the rain-water pipe from the roof with the drain, while it affords a ready means of escape of gas from the latter, also serves to cleanse it after every rain. If necessary, the pipe may be carried a few feet above the roof, in order to discharge the gas at as great a distance as possible from the house. In the construction of water-closets, it is important that the soil-pipe should be carried above the closet to the top of the house, and either open into the outward air or into a chimney. In this way the foul gas will con-

stantly escape from the drain as fast as it is generated, and when the contents of the water-closet descend, the air contained in the soil-pipe, instead of entering the house, will be discharged into the open air, at a sufficient elevation to do no harm. This precaution is especially necessary where two or more closets are connected with one soil-pipe.

140 Charles street, June 21, 1854.

CANCER AND ITS TREATMENT.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WITHIN a few months past, three individuals in this place—two men and one woman—all of advanced age, have died of cancer; the first two, of cancer of the face and on the cheek, the latter of scirrhus of the breast. These cases were all of some years' duration, and the termination was particularly lingering and full of suffering. All the cases were treated by professed cancer doctors, who came full of assurance and promises of cure.

No doubt the readers of the Journal will be pleased, considering the fatal tendency of cancer in general, to learn the particulars of the cure of an unequivocal case of cancer of the stomach. I say unequivocal, because, as the case was in the hands of a cancer doctor, there can be no doubt of its genuineness.

Mrs. I. C., at 30, housewife, nervo-sanguineous, scrofulous, and mother of three children, had some years ago a cancer of the mamma, which was destroyed by caustics; at least that is what the cancer doctor said. In March last she was attacked with many of the symptoms of typhoid fever (then epidemic in the vicinity), irritability of the stomach being prominent. She says this has been a besetting trouble, ever since marriage. A physician was called, who managed the case for three weeks, but still the patient did not get well; gastric irritability was still dominant. The physician left the case to nurses and nature, but the friends called a quack, who kept the patient well peppered for two or three weeks longer, but she was still no better. At this time an Indian cancer doctress, calling herself Mrs. Northrop, claiming relationship to the Chief, Black Hawk, was introduced to the family. This petticoated Æsculapius told the patient, on the first interview, as usual with these professional gulls, "just how she felt," "all her symptoms," and that she could touch the place of greatest pain. She thereupon seized the patient's ankle, and pressed hard enough to make the patient think it very tender—a hitherto undiscovered symptom; and all this before the patient had communicated a word about herself or disease. The patient and friends gaped in astonishment. How could this doctor have come in possession of so much knowledge of the case? Evidently only by intuition and researches hitherto unknown in disease, and there could be no doubt that the cure would be as wonderful and quick as the prescience and diagnosis were found to be. She also made out that the patient had unmistakable cancer of the stomach; that it had existed ever since the other cancer was removed, was getting worse, but that she

could cure it in a year for \$100, \$30 down and the balance paid in a year.

Some may think of asking how this quack came in possession of the special symptoms of the case. For two days previously to seeing the patient, she had been visiting with her sister, a good talking woman, and what symptoms she had come in possession of, not common to disease in general, she had learned of this sister. Like the rest of these *helots* of the profession, as Bird calls them, this new doctor boasted of her wonderful cures of incurable diseases; said she lived in Toledo, Ohio, had patients in a number of places, and that in Buffalo, about two years since, she had taken or coaxed a snake from a man's stomach—by means of medicine!

The preliminaries being arranged, pills and syrup were prescribed for the patient; and as to the victors belong the spoils, the cancer must be extracted *per se*, and the doctor assured the patient it would come out at the tender spot on the heel. To facilitate this, mustard to the feet, and cotton and cream to the ankles, were diligently applied. The patient declared herself better, and the friends were encouraged, but still the cancer maintained its situation, and increased in size. The doctor was encouraged, thinking any change favorable. Some of the elderly ladies looked wise, but said nothing; the remedial means were persevered with, in the hope of a speedy and final cure of the disease; and indeed their efforts were attended with success. Some weeks since, the so-called cancer was removed, and the community is satisfied. It was not taken exactly from the heel, however. It weighed eleven pounds, and showed evident signs of organization. It is carefully preserved, readily shown to visitors, and is a *living* memorial of what a *woman* can do. The patient has regained her usual health, and is full of gratitude to all persons interested.

W. W. G.

Quackenbush, Mich., 1854.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JUNE 28, 1854.

Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—The seventy-third anniversary of this Society was held in the Town Hall of the pleasant and prosperous town of Fitchburg, on Wednesday last. There were between three and four hundred members present, every section of the State being represented in the Convention. Many members, doubtless, were deterred from being present, in consequence of the unpropitious aspect of the weather; but notwithstanding the unfavorable appearances in the morning, the day was cool and comparatively pleasant, and all present seemed to enjoy the proceedings and festivities attendant upon the gathering. At half past ten o'clock, the President, Dr. George Hayward, called the Convention to order, when Dr. Samuel Parkman, the Recording Secretary, read the records of the last annual meeting, which were approved. Dr. Charles E. Ware, the Corresponding Secretary, read a note from the executors of the last will of

the late Dr. George C. Shattuck, of this city, wherein was officially made known his generous bequest to the Society of certain property, on condition that it be accepted within two years from the period of his decease, and the provisions be complied with. The legacy consists of the income of lucrative manufacturing stock, for a period of three years, at the expiration of which time it was estimated it would amount to upwards of *twelve thousand dollars*. The interest upon this sum is to be devoted to publications, and the collection of information relating to the diseases of the Commonwealth. The legacy was accepted; and on motion of Dr. George S. Jones, of Boston, a committee was appointed by the President, consisting of Drs. Jeffries of Boston, Childs of Pittsfield, and Green of Worcester, to take the subject of Dr. Shattuck's bequest into consideration, and to report to the Society, before adjournment, such action and expressions of gratitude, as they might deem most appropriate. The committee subsequently reported a preamble with resolutions, which were couched in the most feeling terms, and bearing witness to the goodness of heart and excellent qualities of the benefactor—accompanied by a vote that they be adopted, entered upon the records, and a copy of them sent to the executors—which was unanimously agreed to. The Treasurer, Dr. Gould, read his annual report, from which it appears that the financial condition of the Society was never better. It was accepted, and a vote of thanks given Dr. G. for his ability and fidelity in the management of his department.

A committee, consisting of Drs. Metcalf of Mendon, Choate of Salem, and Bowditch of Boston, were appointed to solicit communications from the members of the Society, relating to the diseases in their respective localities, with the mode of treatment particularly noticed. Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, made a partial report relative to the geographical distribution of consumption within the State. Two-thirds of the towns in the State have been heard from in answer to queries proposed by him to medical men, and from the reports thus obtained, many curious facts have been collected. Dr. Bowditch has exerted himself with great assiduity in this research; it has required the expenditure of much time and labor to accumulate such a mass of information. The maps and diagrams which had been carefully prepared by him for the purpose, were exhibited and explained. Dr. B. exhibited a double-eared stethoscope, which he said was invented by Dr. Cameron, of New York, and he considered it one of the greatest inventions, since Laennec's promulgation of his theory of auscultation. The inaccuracies existing in the present mode of registration of births, deaths, &c., were commented upon, and Dr. B. moved that a committee be appointed to memorialize the Legislature on the subject. Dr. Jarvis, of Dorchester, wished to amend by inserting in the motion, that this committee be also instructed to confer with the Secretary of State, in regard to the publication of the returns which are now being prepared for the press. This was agreed to, and Drs. Bowditch, Jarvis and Metcalf were constituted that committee.—Dr. Morrill Wyman, of Cambridge, presented an able and elaborate report upon the efficacy of paracentesis of the chest for the withdrawal of collected fluids within that cavity. He had punctured the chest eighty-nine times in thirty-six cases, and had never known any serious or unpleasant effects arise from it; but, on the contrary, cures, or great relief, had almost invariably followed each operation. The Dr. exhibited a trocar the twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter, a canula, and an exhausting pump of very nice and ingenious construction, such as he makes use of in this operation, and which have been found well adapted to meet the exigencies of every case. Dr. W.

did not claim any originality in the operation, for similar ones were performed as early as the seventeenth century; but he could testify as to the good results which generally follow them. It was of some importance to be able to distinguish, in cases of collection of fluids within the chest, whether they be serum or pus, and he had found, by observation and experience, that they could often be distinguished by the decrease or increase of the urine voided. If the fluid be serum, then the quantity of urine will be diminished; but if pus forms, then the urine is secreted and passes off in the normal quantity.

At 12 1-2 o'clock the Society took a recess of thirty minutes; after which, Dr. Workman, of Worcester, proceeded to deliver the annual address. His subject was "The Progress of Medical Science." The address was well written and ably delivered, and we regret that our limited space will not admit of a full report of it. It will be printed with the other transactions, and we may then make extracts from it. On motion of Dr. Metcalf, of Mendon, the thanks of the Society were presented to Dr. Workman.

At 2 1-2 the members repaired to the upper Hall, where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared for them; and after the inner man had been carefully provided for, "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" commenced, which was kept up until the lateness of the hour admonished many of the members that it was time for them to withdraw if they wished to avail themselves of the trains to convey them home.

The meeting was characterized throughout by a spirit of harmonious action, and for the first time, we believe, for several years, it passed without any one proposing amendments, or discussing the expediency of altering the by-laws. Twenty-seven gentlemen have become members during the year, and we think the present and future prospects of the Society were never more auspicious.

At a meeting of the Counsellors held the day previous, Dr. George Hayward, of Boston, was re-elected President; Dr. James Deane, of Greenfield, Vice President; Dr. A. A. Gould, of Boston, Treasurer; Dr. C. E. Ware, of Boston, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. Samuel Parkman, of Boston, Recording Secretary; Dr. J. B. Alley, of Boston, Librarian; Dr. W. J. Dale, of Boston, Anniversary Chairman; and Dr. A. A. Gould, of Boston, Orator. It was decided that the next annual meeting should be held in Springfield.

Mortality in New York in 1853.—A voluminous report of the Inspector of the city of New York has been printed—making a compact document of 264 octavo pages. It is a methodical record, and will be of peculiar value for future reference. There seems no room for further improvement in the manner of arranging the materials of which the work is composed. A clear head must have been severely taxed to carry on such a variety of tabular statements as characterize a large portion of the work. The Inspector assumes that the population is 600,000—and it may be more. In 1853, 22,702 were reported for interment. But by deducting 1,575 still-born, 355 premature births, 97 malformations, and 175 deaths from old age, there remain 20,500 who died either by disease or casualties. Of this great number, 4,473 were male adults, and 7,757 male children. Female adults, 3,651; female children, 6,821. A minute examination of the various items of intelligence interspersed throughout the whole report, illustrative of the laws of disease, would swell our comments into a prosy uninteresting article for general reading, and we therefore pass over much that shows the labo-

rious application and the clear-mindedness of that model officer, Thomas K. Downing, City Inspector of New York.

Schools of Medicine and Medical Practitioners.—Active preparations are making for the coming lecture season, which will speedily arrive in some of the schools. Even as early as August, the term will open in one place, and in nearly all of the schools in October. The inquiry very naturally comes up—where are the crowds of young physicians who are annually graduated, to locate? Cities and towns are actually over-stocked with all of the professions, but with no one of them more so than that of medicine and surgery. The mighty expanse of the growing West is the great field for the display of their humanity and skill. It is the West, however, beyond Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. At present, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and, lastly, the vast territory of Nebraska, hold out invitations for the exercise of every order of talent, and especially that which is always needed in young countries—surgical skill. Instead of struggling on through multiplied difficulties, why not strike off manfully into the virgin regions of the West, and grow up with society, into wealth, usefulness and distinction? Emigrants are threading their way to Nebraska and Kansas, like a cloud of locusts; not to destroy every green thing, but to cultivate the fat soil and develop the amazing resources of the earth. Our medical forefathers manifested great energy of purpose, in the early history of the country, and by a spirited determination to leave a print of their footsteps, achieved honorable positions and a name. Let their descendants boldly follow their example. Wherever there are human beings, there the advice of the physician is required; and as population increases, so does the odor of his good name. In short, prosperity and usefulness will in most cases be the reward of those who leave the old hive, to act their parts and gather and get gain in the unoccupied localities of Oregon, Nebraska and Kansas.

Tumors of the Breast.—From time immemorial the female breast has been subject to a variety of diseases, which are perhaps as well understood and managed, in the main, as other glandular affections. But there is a condition of the organ, most perplexing to the medical attendant, and which needs the continued research of the faculty. We allude to those knotty enlargements in the interior, which remain in a state of inflammation for years, which are exceedingly tender, and which ordinary treatment does not seem to subdue. The tendency is to degenerate into a cancerous ulceration; but the progress is not always rapid, although attended with deep-seated pains, and a general caky enlargement. Amputation has always been the last resort, even in the worst forms of enlargement and ulceration. No new points could be advanced in regard to a resort to the knife. It is desirable to know how to prevent this last resource, which must always be considered a fearful one, however successful the operation may prove. Some of our learned correspondents who have had experience in these affections, might communicate the results of their observations and treatment, and they would be acceptable to the whole profession.

Quack Remedies for Cholera.—With the approach of cholera, the papers begin to teem more largely with nostrums. It should be a matter of conscience with editors to warn the people not to trust to secret preparations. There is no reliance to be placed in any one medicine as a specific cure.

Take nothing without the calm advice of a physician who acknowledges his responsibility to society by devoting his life to the laborious pursuit of ministering to the sick. The cholera, like all other kinds of sickness, is modified by latitude, longitude, the habits and temperament of the patient, and the peculiar circumstances which belong to every location. Let medicine alone, therefore, till it is prescribed by a competent man.

Pillow Drinking Tube.—There has been placed upon our table for examination, a very neat and useful little instrument, called the "Pillow Drinking Tube," which is intended for the use of persons who are confined to their beds and backs, by means of which they may be able to take drinks freely without the inconvenience of rising. It is composed of *pure block tin*, therefore not easily oxidized, and the price asked for it is so reasonable that every family should be possessed of one. We take great pleasure in recommending it. It is manufactured by Mr. E. Burt, Manchester, Conn., and is sold by Mr. Burnett, 39 Tremont street, Boston.

Cod-Liver Oil.—It has been supposed by some physicians who have no faith in the curative powers of cod-liver oil, that there was little or no demand for it now. We have taken some pains to inquire of the principal dealers in this valuable therapeutical agent, as to the extent of their sales the past year, and have been astonished to learn the quantity they have disposed of. Mr. Joseph Burnett, No. 39 Tremont street, one of the early dealers in it, informs us that he has bottled this year *three thousand gallons* (24,000 bottles). A sample of his manufacture has been shown us, and we are free to say that it is fully as good as any we have ever seen. It is perfectly free from rancidity, and quite as palatable as the purest olive oil. Mr. Burnett assures us that he takes great pains in getting the oil from healthy livers, and also in preparing it to keep sweet and fresh for the year.

Committees of the American Medical Association.—In the number of this Journal for May 17th, an imperfect list was given of the chairmen of special committees appointed for the year, at the last meeting of the Association. The following is believed to be correct, and is inserted in full.

Dr. Worthington Hooker, of New Haven, Ct., "On Epidemics of New England and New York."

Dr. John L. Atlee, of Lancaster, Pa., "On Epidemics of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland."

Dr. D. J. Cain, of Charleston, S. C., "On Epidemics of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama."

Dr. W. L. Sutton, of Georgetown, Ky., "On Epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky."

Dr. Thos. Reyburn, of St. Louis, Mo., "On Epidemics of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin."

Dr. Geo. Mendenhall, of Cincinnati, Ohio, "On Epidemics of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan."

Dr. E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans, La., "On Epidemics of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas."

Dr. James Jones, of New Orleans, La., "On the Mutual Relations of Yellow and Bilious Remittent Fever."

Dr. D. F. Condie, of Philadelphia, Pa., "On the Causes of Tuberculous Disease."

Dr. Jos. Leidy, of Philadelphia, Pa., "On Diseases of Parasitic Origin."

Dr A. P. Merrill, of Memphis, Tenn., "On the Physiological Peculiarities and Diseases of Negroes."

Dr. Jos. N. McDowell, of St. Louis, Mo., "On Statistics of the Operation for the Removal of Stone in the Bladder."

Dr. F. P. Porcher, of Charleston, S. C., "On the Toxicological and Medicinal Properties of our Cryptogamic Plants."

Dr. Daniel Brainard, of Chicago, Ill., "On the Constitutional and Local Treatment of Carcinoma."

Dr. George Engleman, of St. Louis, Mo., "On the Influence of Geological Formations on the Character of Disease."

Dr. Henry Taylor, of Mount Clemens, Mich., "On Dysentery."

Dr. Horace Green, of New York, "On the Use and Effect of Applications of Nitrate of Silver to the Throat, in Local or General Disease."

Dr. P. C. Gooch, of Richmond, Va., "On the Administration of Anæsthetic Agents during Parturition."

Dr. Chas. Hooker, of New Haven, Conn., "On the Diet of the Sick."

Dr. E. R. Dabney, of Clarksville, Tenn., "On certain Forms of Eruptive Fevers, prevalent in Middle Tennessee."

Dr. Sanford B. Hunt, of New York, "On the Hygrometrical State of the Atmosphere in various Localities, and its Influence on Health."

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, N. Y., "On the frequency of Deformities in Fractures."

Dr. M. M. Pallen, of St. Louis, Mo., "On Diseases of the Prostate Gland."

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, Ill., "On the Excretions as an Index to the Organic Changes going on in the System."

Dr. Leroy H. Anderson, of Sumterville, Ala., "On Typhoid Fever and its Complications as it prevails in Alabama."

Dr. W. H. Byford, of Evansville, Ia., "On the Pathology and Treatment of Scrofula."

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, Ill., "On the Nutritive Qualities of Milk, and the influence produced thereon by pregnancy and menstruation in the human female, and by pregnancy in the cow, and also on the question whether there is not some mode by which the nutritive constituents of milk can be preserved in their purity and sweetness, and furnished to the inhabitants of cities in such quantities as to supersede the present defective and often unwholesome method of supply."

Dr. E. B. Haskens, of Clarksville, Tenn., "On the Microscopical Investigations of Malignant Tumors."

Dr. George K. Grant, of Memphis, Tenn., "On the Sulphate of Quinia as a Remedial Agent in the Treatment of Fevers."

Dr. R. R. McIlvain, of Cincinnati, Ohio, "On the Study of Pathology at the Bedside."

Dr. E. S. Cooper, of Peoria, Ill., "On Orthopædic Surgery."

Dr. Andrew F. Jeter, of Palmyra, Mo., "On the Modus Operandi of the Envenomed Secretions of Healthy Animals."

Dr. Sam. M. Smith, of Columbus, Ohio, "On Insanity."

Dr. Rene la Roche, of Philadelphia, Pa., "On the Jaundice of Yellow Fever in its Diagnostical and Prognostical Relations."

Dr. Charles Chandler, of Rocheport, Mo., "On Malignant Periodic Fevers."

Dr. S. B. Chase, of Portland, Me., "On Typhoid Fever in Maine."

Committee on Plans of Organization for State and County Societies.—A. B. Palmer, M.D., Michigan; R. R. McIlvain, M.D., Ohio; D. L. McGugin, M.D., Iowa; E. R. Peaslee, M.D., New Hampshire; Thomas Lipscomb, M.D., Tennessee.

Committee on Medical Literature.—Robert J. Ereckenridge, M. D., Kentucky, Chairman; A. A. Gould, M. D., Massachusetts; D. L. McGugin, M.D., Iowa; J. B. Flint, M.D., Kentucky; O. M. Langdon, M.D., Ohio.

Committee on Medical Education.—Wm. H. Anderson, M.D., Alabama; A. Lopez, M.D., do.; Andrew Murray, M.D., Michigan; A. Ramsay, M.D. Tennessee; R. D. Ross, M.D.

Committee on Prize Essays.—Rene La Roche, M.D., Pennsylvania; Isaac Hays, M.D., do.; Alfred Stillé, M.D., do.; J. R. Biddle, M.D., do.; Geo. W. Norris, M.D., do.; Joseph Carson, M.D., do.; Joseph Leidy, M.D., do.

Committee of Arrangements.—Isaac Hays, M.D., Pennsylvania; G. Emerson, M.D., do.; Wilson Jewell, M.D., do.; Alfred Stillé, M.D., do.; Francis West, M.D., do.; Wm. V. Keating, M.D., do.

Committee on Publications.—Pliny Earle, M.D., New York; D. Francis Condie, M.D., Pennsylvania; E. S. Lemoine, M.D., Missouri; A. March, M.D., New York; E. H. Davis, M.D., do.; C. M. Gilman, M.D., do.

Registration Report of Connecticut.—The following is a condensed report of the Secretary of State of Connecticut, relating to births, marriages and deaths, within that State, for the year 1853. It is taken from the "Courant."

There have been, in the State, the last year, 8302 births; 3136 marriages, and 5596 deaths. The births and deaths of each sex have been about the same.

Of disorders, there have been 825 deaths from consumption, 292 from typhus fever; 280 from old age; 256 from violence; 242 from pneumonia; 238 from dysentery, &c. There have been only two deaths in Barkhamstead, the last year, in a population of 1524—being the smallest number and smallest per centage in the State.

Of the occupation of those that have died, 633 were agriculturists; 184 laborers; 398 mechanics; 68 merchants; 68 professional men; 15 "public men"; 43 seamen; and 111 females engaged in various mechanical employments.

Seventy-eight persons have died over 90 years of age, of which 18 were males and 60 females. One female in New Haven County, was over 100 years. Of the comparison of deaths in the two sexes, in different ages, under 10 years old, the males exceed the females; from 10 to 40 the females are in excess, the greatest being from 20 to 30; over 40 and thence to 70, there is a greater number of males; from 70 to 100, a large preponderance of females, which shows that more females live to be old than males.

There has been a decrease of births, and an increase of marriages and deaths over 1851.

Another Death from inhaling Chloroform.—The "Pittsfield Eagle" says that the wife of A. W. Richardson of North Adams died in that village on

Thursday, the 15th inst, while under the influence of chloroform administered for the purpose of removing teeth, of which several had been extracted before the effects of the chloroform were exhibited, and in less than ten minutes afterwards Mrs. R. was a corpse.

Hydrophobia.—It appears that this formidable disease is prevailing to an alarming extent in the canine family of this city. Although we hear of many persons being bitten, only one has yet been affected with hydrophobia. This person, a man of middle age, in the full vigor of life, received a bite from a dog, as he was passing along the street after night, and, not suspecting hydrophobia, paid but little attention to the accident. In about three weeks symptoms of the disease made their appearance, which in a few hours reached those terrific spasms peculiar to hydrophobia. The best medical aid was obtained, but, as in all such cases, it was unavailing. —*The Western (Cinn.) Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—A paper announces with becoming evidences of alarm, that there are three cases of smallpox in Boston! Has there been a day in six months when there were not twenty?—Dr. Hobbs, of Memphis, Tenn., insists upon a discovery he has made, that the use of cistern water in that city, exclusively, will prevent the cholera.—A Dr. Robinson in Indiana has been arrested for counterfeiting.—Dr. Izelhart, of Baltimore, a German physician, killed himself last week.—A needle was lately extracted from the knee of a lady in Rochester, N. Y. It was swallowed in December last, and was much corroded, the point having become nearly as much blunted as the head.—Dr. Kane, of Plattsburg, N. Y., has been called to the Chair of Medicine, in the Medical Department of the University of Vermont.

ERRATUM.—In the Journal of May 17th, page 315, the initials to Dr. Thompson's name should have been J. E. instead of "I. E."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The following papers have been received:—Dr. Cotting's Address before the Norfolk (Mass.) District Medical Society; Dr. Castle on the Treatment of Hydrophobia; Self-limited Diseases, continued.

In reply to a note from "Inquirer," respecting the merits of a certain astrologer now in our city, we can only say that we know nothing of him, and have never recommended him or any other of the dishonest pretenders to marvellous powers and miraculous skill. Of course we should advise our stranger friend to save his time and money, and keep clear of the whole tribe of them.

MARRIED.—In Keene, N. H., Dr. Thomas E. Hatch to H. Maria Handerson.—In this city, J. F. Jarvis, M.D., to Miss Carrie C. White.—At New York, Dr. James Harvey Irwin to Miss Mary Jane McDonough.—At Newcastle, Del., 1st. inst., Dr. A. B. Wasson, of the U. S. Army, to Miss H. A. Ritchie.

DIED.—At Racine, Wis., Dr. Otis Jenks, aged 55 years.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, June 24th, 62. Males, 28—females, 34. Accident, 4—asthma, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 3—disease of the bowels, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—congestion of the brain, 1—consumption, 9—cancer, 1—convulsions, 4—cholera, 4—cholera morbus, 1—croup, 1—dropsy, 1—dropsy in the head, 3—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 6—erysipelas, 1—typhus fever, 2—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 2—disease of the heart, 1—intemperance, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—disease of the liver, 1—marasmus, 1—old age, 2—suicide, 1—crochula, 1—smallpox, 1—disease of the spine, 1—teething, 1—thrush, 1—unknown, 1. Under 5 years, 23—between 5 and 20 years, 8—between 20 and 40 years, 20—between 40 and 60 years, 6—above 60 years, 5. Born in the United States, 37—Ireland, 24—British Provinces, 1.

Simpson's Redressor in Uterine Deviations.—The Paris correspondent of the Western (Cincinnati) Lancet, writes as follows respecting the use of Dr. Simpson's instrument in uterine affections. Some account of this instrument may be found in the Parisian correspondence of this Journal, Oct. 26, 1853.

"Since I last wrote you, the subject of the treatment of uterine deviations by Simpson's redressor, as modified by M. Valleix of La Pitié, has been brought before the Academy of Medicine. Nothing has been said since the protracted discussion of the whole subject in 1849. The discussion which will take place shortly, promises to be very exciting; if not somewhat severe. The occasion of the introduction of the subject at the Academy was the reading of the report of the treatment and death of a woman at hospital Lourcine by M. Broca, one of the surgeons of that hospital. The case was one of anteversion of the uterus, for which the redressor was applied. I have not space in this to give you the case in full, but I must say that I do not believe the death of the woman was determined by the instrument. The woman had peritonitis of a chronic character, and for this reason I believe M. Broca is wrong in attributing the fatal termination to the redressor. He says, moreover, that not the least trace of a wound of the internal surface of the uterus could be found, nor of any inflammation of the peritoneal or external surface. However, the report was thought to be a matter of great importance, as it deservedly is, and was sent to a committee composed of Depant, Huguier and Robert. At the next meeting, Prof. Cruveilhier read a long report of a case which terminated fatally under his observation. This report was sent to the same committee, whose action is anxiously looked for."

Functional Derangement of the Heart.—Palpitation from derangement of the stomach is by far its most common cause. The paroxysm may be protracted for many days, and the heart's action so vehement and irregular, attended also by various forms of bellows murmur, as to render it impossible for the physician who only saw the patient pending the paroxysm to pronounce against the existence of organic disease. I have already given two examples of this form, in both of which the symptoms disappeared after the action of an emetic. In dealing with these cases, it is difficult to draw the line between palpitations resulting from mere sympathy with the stomach and those produced by certain poisonous ingesta which act on the nervous system, such as tea, tobacco, alcoholic drinks, &c. A common case met with is that from the use of tobacco. This often occurs with young men of the better class, who have recently entered the army, and who have smoked to excess, in addition to other irregularities. It is rarely seen among peasants, or in men who have passed the age of twenty-five.—Dr. STOKES on *Diseases of the Heart and Aorta.*—*Lond. Lancet.*

New General Hospital in Paris.—The new hospital in the northern part of Paris will shortly be ready for the reception of the sick. It will be remembered that this hospital was begun in 1845, on an estimated cost of £104,000. In 1849, Madame de Lariboissière left £50,000 for the completion of the building; and the hospital, after having borne the names of Louis Philippe, of the Republic, and of Northern Hospital, will now be called after the generous donor, "Lariboissière Hospital." It is composed of five wings quite separate from each other, and looking east and west.—*London Lancet.*

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